

VZCZCXRO9956  
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHVJ #0528 0671622  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 081622Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5645  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE 0074  
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE 0013  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0032  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0036

C O N F I D E N T I A L SARAJEVO 000528

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/NCE, EUR/PGI, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/07/2012

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [SI](#) [BK](#)

SUBJECT: BOSNIA SEEKS GUIDANCE ON PURSUING UNHRC CANDIDACY

REF: A. LJUBLJANA 124

[1](#)B. STATE 21984

[1](#)C. SARAJEVO 438

Classified By: DCM Judith B. Cefkin. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action message. Please see action request, paragraph 4.

[1](#)2. (C) On March 7, the DCM and BiH Foreign Minister Sven Alkalaj discussed Bosnia's potential bid for one of the two Eastern European Group (EEG) seats on the UN Human Rights Council (REF. B and C). Alkalaj said Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel told him directly that if Bosnia announced its candidacy for one of the two EEG slots, Slovenia would withdraw its candidacy (REF A).

[1](#)3. (C) Alkalaj said BiH had earlier given its support to Slovenia and did not want to upset friendly bilateral relations. He noted that if Bosnia wanted to mount a campaign for a UNHRC seat, it would need to send a representative to the March 12 foreign ministers meeting in Geneva. He asked for U.S. guidance on whether to dispatch his Deputy Minister. DCM told Alkalaj the USG did not intend to derail the Slovenian candidacy, and promised to report Alkalaj's concerns to Washington.

[1](#)4. (C) ACTION REQUEST: Post believes that we should not push Bosnia to send a representative to the Geneva meeting to declare its candidacy for one of the EEG seats unless we are able to convince Slovenia that Bosnia's bid does not endanger Slovenia's candidacy. However, if we do want Bosnia to pursue a seat, we need to advise Alkalaj of that fact as soon as possible. We request Department guidance by March 9 as to what to tell Minister Alkalaj with respect to the March 12 meeting in Geneva.

MCELHANEY